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STATE *of the* STATE Survey

State
Of the
State
Survey

*The International Orientations
of the Michigan Public*

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The International Orientations of the Michigan Public

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BACKGROUND

Historically, national surveys that examine the impact of globalization on political and economic affairs have focused on the international awareness and attitudes of Americans. No major survey has reported on the international attitudes and global awareness of Michigan citizens. Therefore, Michigan State University's (MSU) State of the State Survey (SOSS) designed a special survey to fill this gap and to provide baseline information for policy-makers, educators, the media, and for the public at large.

This survey attempts to identify Michigan citizens' perceptions of global interdependence. To what extent do major world events affect what happens in the United States? To what extent can the United States "go it alone" to solve major world problems? How have specific events such as NAFTA affected Americans and American workers? The survey examines the international experience of Michigan citizens, identifying whether they have traveled abroad and/or speak foreign languages. Michiganians are asked whether the study of foreign languages should be required in public schools and universities, and whether college students should be encouraged to study abroad. Finally, the survey explores the role of Michigan's state government in promoting the interests of Michigan businesses and in encouraging foreign investment in Michigan.

THE SURVEY

A telephone survey of 974 adult Michigan residents was conducted by MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research between April 30 and July 10, 1999. This study - the 17th quarterly MSU State of the State Survey - focuses on international education, United States interdependence, the roles of U.S. federal and state government in international affairs, and the international perceptions of Michiganians categorized by union membership and political party affiliation. The overall sampling error is $\pm 3.1\%$.

The sample was designed to provide representative information for Michigan residents from major regions of the state: Central Michigan (West and East), Detroit City, northern Lower Michigan, Southeast Michigan, Southwest Michigan, and the Upper Peninsula. The data reported here are weighted to be representative of Michigan's adult population.

SUMMARY

Public opinion of the Michigan citizens surveyed indicates that:

- Michigianians live in an interdependent world.
- Our students should be required to study a foreign language and encouraged to participate in study abroad.
- People with higher education or higher income are more likely to say that the U.S. is globally interdependent.
- We should promote free trade.
- Republicans are more likely to support free trade and an active U.S. role in world affairs than are Democrats, but a majority of both Republicans and Democrats support free trade and U.S. foreign activism.
- Democrats are more likely to say that the U.S. role in peacekeeping is “about right,” while Republicans are more likely to say that it is too large.
- NAFTA has benefited America and American workers.
- Non-union members are more likely to support free trade and say that NAFTA has benefited the U.S. and American workers than are union members.

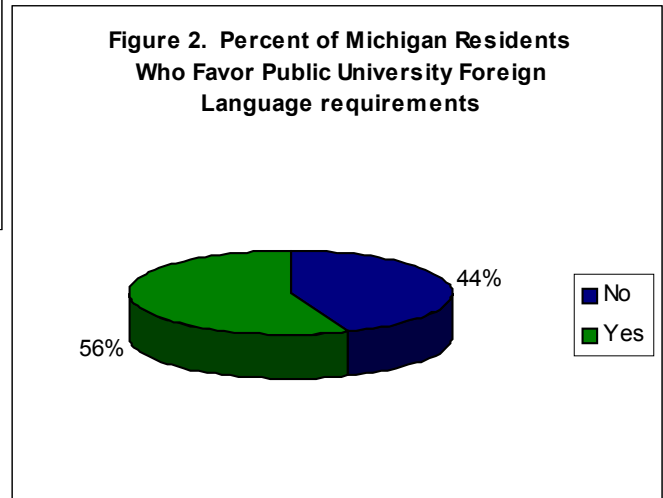
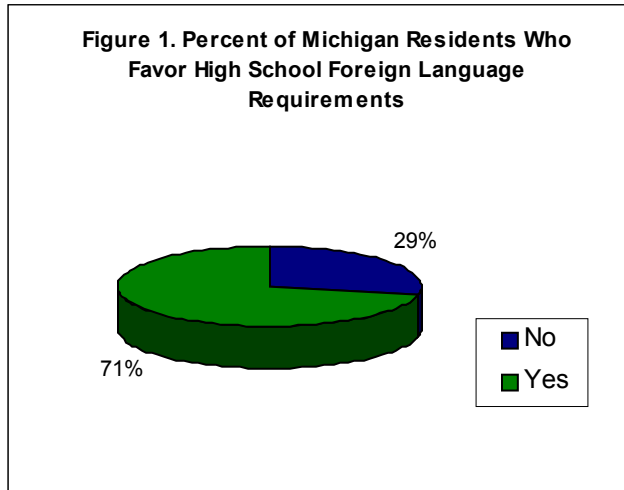
KEY FINDINGS

International Experiences of Michigan Citizens

- **The majority of Michigianians (59%) have traveled outside the US.** Of those who have traveled abroad, 40% last traveled to Canada, 22% last traveled to Western Europe or the United Kingdom, and 11% last traveled to Mexico. (Question 1 – exact wording given below)
- **The majority of Michigan residents (98%) claim English as their native language; 42% can read a foreign language.** Of those who can speak or read a foreign language, 18% can speak it fluently or very well, 35% can speak it fairly well, and 47% cannot speak it well at all. (Q. 2 and Q. 3)

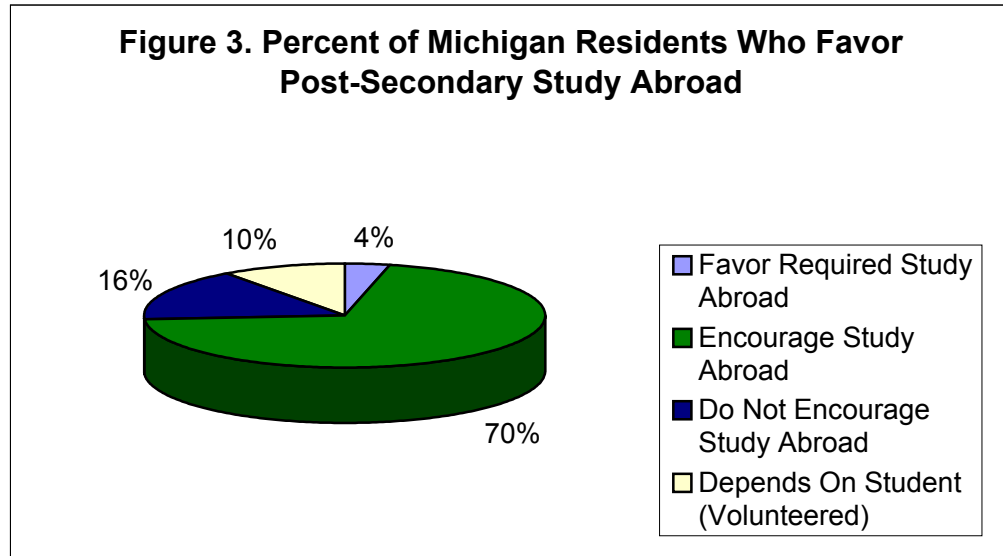
How do Michigianians view international education?

- **The majority of Michigan residents believe that foreign language study should be required in public high schools (71%) and in public universities (56%).** (See Figures 1 and 2; Q. 4 and Q. 5)



- **Approximately three out of four Michigianians (74%) say that college students should be encouraged or required to study abroad for a semester or for a summer.** Education levels impact opinions about study abroad; factors such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, previous foreign travel, or ability to speak a foreign language do not. The majority of Michigan residents with a college education (81%) say that study abroad should be encouraged or required; the majority of those with a high school education or less (63%) say that study abroad should be encouraged or required. (See Figure 3; Q. 6)

Figure 3. Percent of Michigan Residents Who Favor Post-Secondary Study Abroad



How do Michigan residents perceive the interrelation of the United States with foreign countries?

- **As Figure 4 illustrates, Michigianians are likely to believe that the United States is interrelated with other countries.** Michigianians believe that the following issues affect America's well-being somewhat or a great deal: (1) Mexico's economic and financial well-being, (2) Performance of Asian economies, (3) Destruction of the rainforest in Brazil, and (4) Development of atomic weapons in India and Pakistan. Gender, education, income, and political party affiliation are correlated with the belief that America is globally interdependent; age does not have such a relation. (See Figure 5; Qs. 7-15)

Figure 4. Percent of Michigan Respondents Who Believe that America can Go it Alone

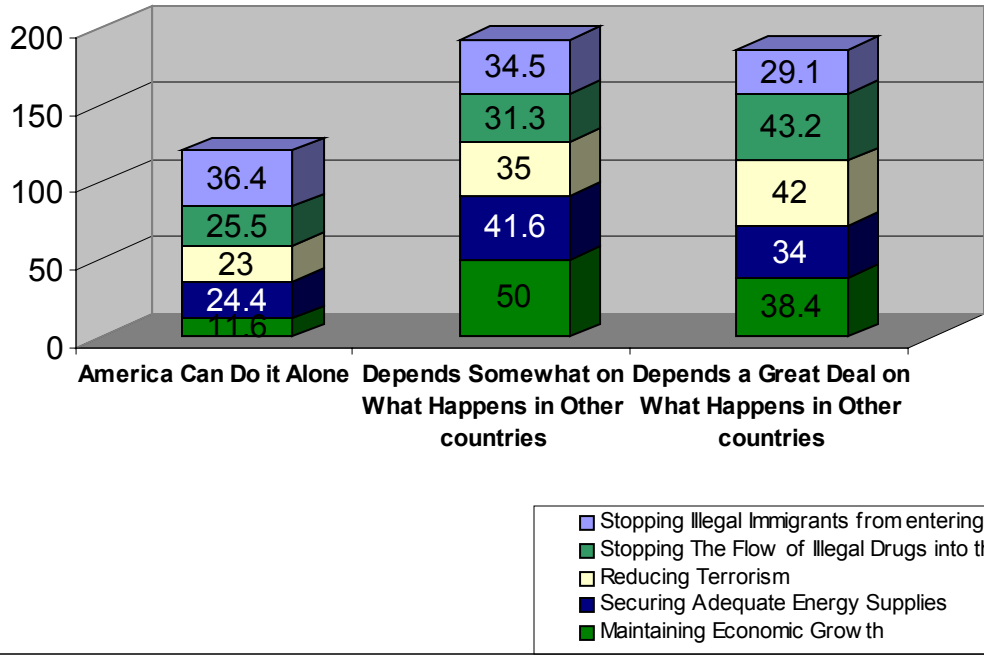


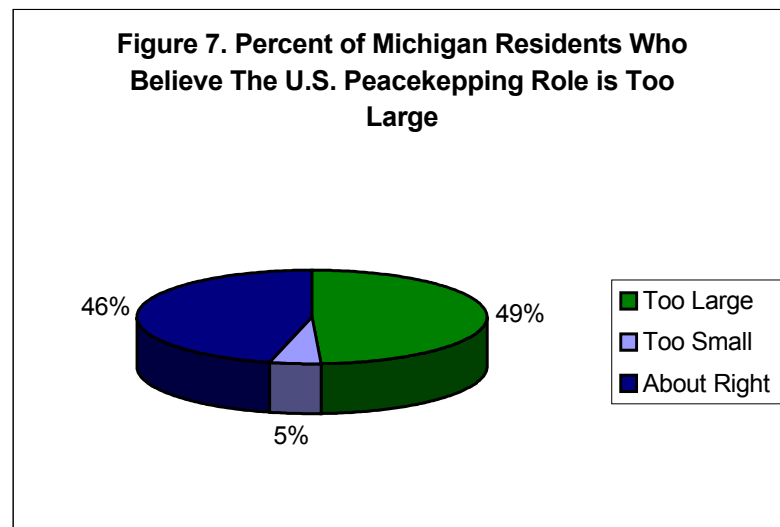
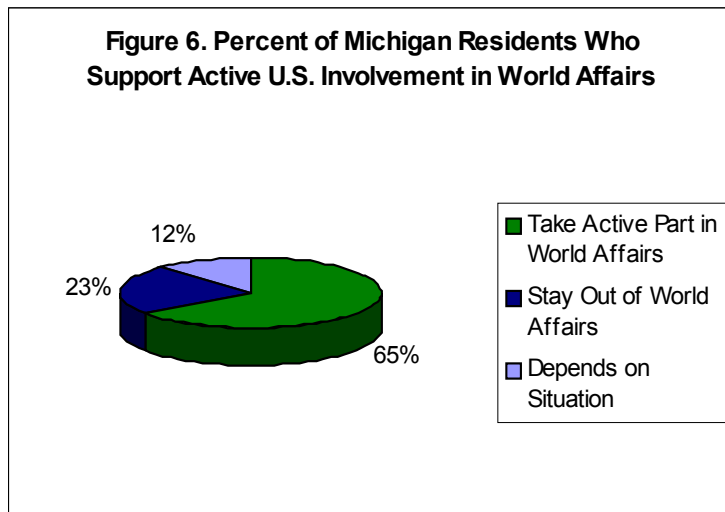
Figure 5. Global Issues that Michigan Residents Believe Affect America's Well-Being



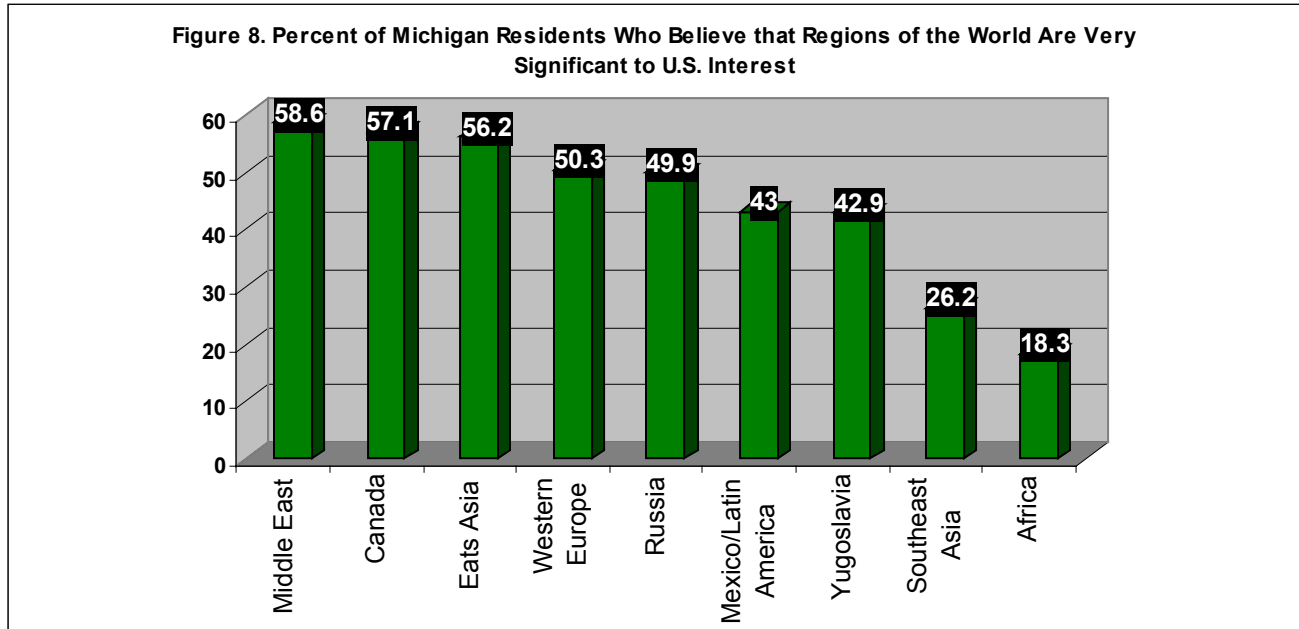
- **More women than men say that America is globally interdependent.** Women are more likely to believe that maintaining economic growth, securing adequate energy supplies, and stopping the flow of illegal drugs into the United States depends on what happens in other countries. They are more likely to believe that the performance of Asian economies and that of the Mexican economy affect America's well-being.
- **People with higher levels of education are more likely to say that the United States is globally interdependent.** They are more likely to believe that securing adequate energy supplies depends on what happens in other countries. They are also more likely to believe that the destruction of the rainforest in Brazil and the performance of Asian economies affect America's well-being. However, Michigan residents with more education are more likely to believe that the United States, by itself, can keep illegal drugs out of the country.
- **People with higher incomes are more likely to say that the United States is globally interdependent.** They are more likely to believe that the performance of Asian economies affects America's well-being, and that securing adequate energy supplies for America depends on what happens in other countries. In contrast, people with lower incomes are more likely to believe that the destruction of the rainforest in Brazil affects America's well-being.
- **Major political party affiliation does not correlate with the belief that the United States is globally interdependent, with one exception:** Democrats are more likely than Republicans to believe that the destruction of the rainforest in Brazil affects America's well-being.
- **Age does not correlate with the belief that America is globally interdependent, with two exceptions:** The older people are, the more likely they are to say that the United States can prevent illegal immigration by itself, and that the performance of Asian economies affects America's well-being.

How do Michiganians perceive the roles of U.S. federal and state governments in world affairs?

- The majority of Michiganians (65%) believe that the United States should take an active role in world affairs. (See Figure 6; Q. 16) Concerning the U.S. role in peacekeeping, more people think that the U.S. role is too large (49%) than just about right (46%). (See Figure 7; Q. 17) However, 84% feel that the United States should try to get outside help in dangerous situations, i.e., through the United Nations.



Michigan residents perceive world regions as having differing importance regarding U.S. interests. The largest percentage (59%) consider the Middle East to be “very significant” to U.S. interests, followed by Canada (57%), East Asia (56%), Western Europe (50%), Russia (50%), Mexico/Latin America (43%), Yugoslavia (43%), Southeast Asia (26%), and Africa (18%). (See Figure 8; Q. 18)



- Major political party affiliation correlates with beliefs about U.S. involvement in world affairs.** Republicans (72%) are more likely than Democrats (62%) to support an active U.S. role in world affairs; however, they are more likely to say that the U.S. peacekeeping role is too large (52% vs. 36%).
- The majority of Michiganians (60%) believe that legal immigration to the United States should stay the same or increase; 78% say that legal immigration has been somewhat or mostly good for the United States.** (See Figures 9 and 10; Q. 19 and Q. 20) Only 27% of Michigan residents believe that legal immigrants have taken good jobs away from Americans. (See Figure 11; Q. 21) Political party affiliation does not correlate with opinions about U.S. immigration levels.

Figure 10. Percent of Michigan Residents Who Believe Legal Immigration Has Been Good for America

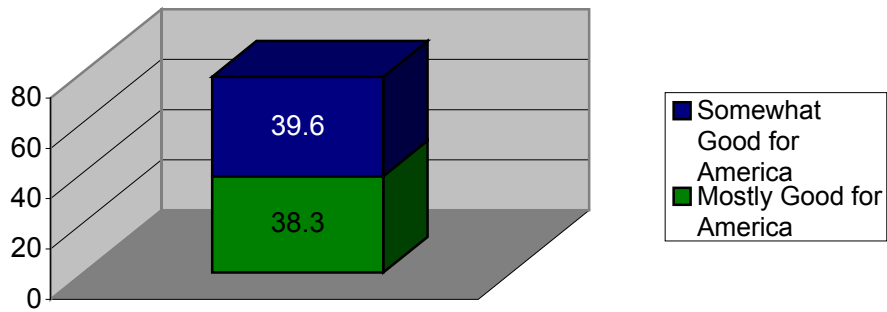
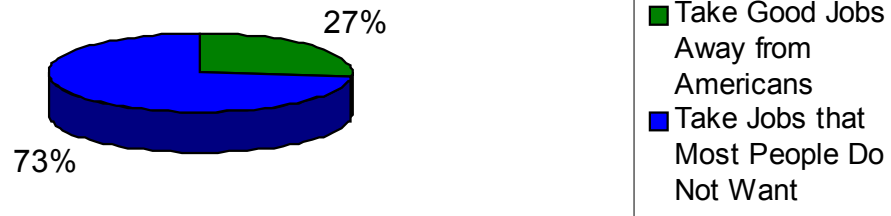


Figure 11. Percent of Michigan Residents Who Believe that Immigrants Take Jobs that Most People Do Not Want



- The citizens of Michigan support state government efforts to promote Michigan business abroad and to attract business to Michigan.** While 82% of Michiganians believe that state government should promote Michigan sales abroad (see Figure 12), 69% believe that it should encourage foreign manufacturers (and other American businesses - 93%) to locate in Michigan. (See Figure 13; Qs. 22-24) The majority of Michigan residents (79%) make an effort to buy American products; 77% try to buy American-made cars. (See Figures 14 and 15; Q. 25 and Q. 26)

Figure 12. Percent of Michigan Residents that Believe that State Government Should Promote Michigan Business Abroad

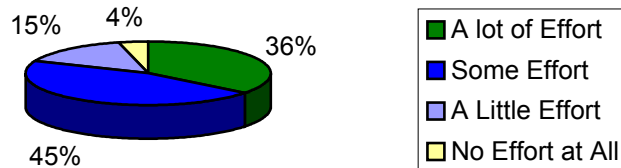


Figure 13. Percent of Michigan Residents Who Believe that State Government Should Encourage Foreign and American Manufacturers to Locate in Michigan

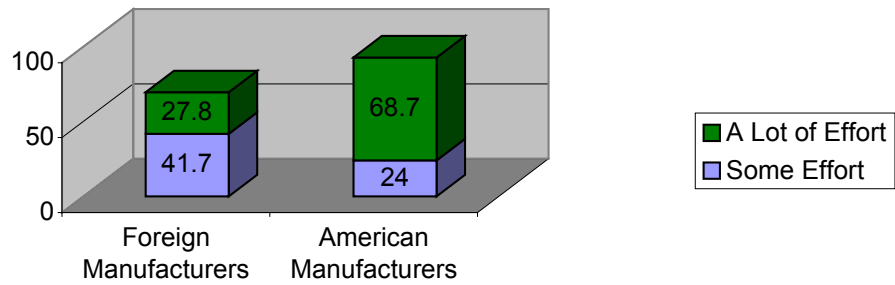
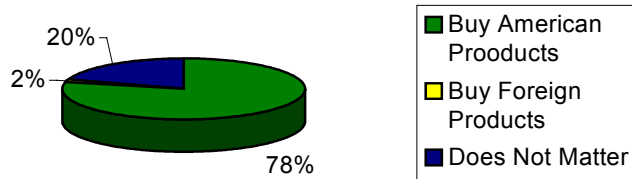


Figure 14. Percent of Michigan Residents Who Try to Buy American Products



How do union membership and party affiliation affect the international orientation of Michigianians?

- **The majority of Michigan residents (57%) believe the U.S. government should promote free trade; 43% believe that the import of foreign products into the United States should be limited.** (See Figure 16, Q. 27) Union membership has a significant impact on international orientation. The majority of non-union Michigianians (58%) say the U.S. government should promote free trade; 49% of union-affiliated

- **Michigianians agree. While 42% of non-union Michigianians believe the U.S. government should limit foreign imports, 51% of union-affiliated Michigianians agree. The majority of Republican Michigianians (59%) support free trade; 52% of Democratic Michigianians concur.**

What do Michigianians think about the impact of NAFTA on the United States?

- **The majority of Michigianians (69%) believe that NAFTA has been good or mostly good for the U.S. economy.** (See Figure 17; Q. 28) In addition, 54% state that NAFTA has been good or mostly good for American workers. (Q. 29) While 39% say that the United States, Canada, and Mexico have benefited similarly from NAFTA, 40% believe that Mexico has benefited the most from NAFTA. (See Figure 18; Q. 29)

- **Union membership has a mixed impact on Michigianians' perception of NAFTA.** Union membership does not significantly influence their perceptions of which country has benefited most from NAFTA. However, it does significantly influence perceptions about the impact of NAFTA on the United States and on American workers: Seventy-two percent of non-union Michigianians say that NAFTA has been good or mostly good for the United States, and 55% of union-affiliated Michigianians agree. While 58% of non-union Michigianians believe that NAFTA has been good or mostly good for American workers, 40% of union-affiliated Michigianians agree. (Q. 30)

SURVEY QUESTIONS

The questions regarding the international orientation of the Michigan public discussed in this briefing paper are listed below, in their entirety, in the order in which they were discussed. Numbers in brackets are the actual question numbers that appear on the survey instrument.

Q. 1. Have you ever traveled to or lived in a foreign country? [TR2]

Q. 2. Is there any language other than English that you can speak or read at least somewhat? [FL2]

Q. 3. Would you say you are fluent in that language, you can speak it very well, somewhat well, or not well at all? [FL3]

Q. 4. Thinking about education and foreign languages, should students in Michigan's high schools be required to study a foreign language? [S1]

Q. 5. Should students in Michigan's public colleges and universities be required to study a foreign language? [S2]

Q. 6. Do you think students in Michigan's public colleges and universities should be required to study abroad for a semester or a summer, should be encouraged to study abroad, or should not be encouraged to study abroad? [S3]

Q. 7. Thinking about maintaining economic growth and a stable economy in America, is this something that America can best address by itself, does it depend somewhat on what happens in other countries, or does it depend a lot on what happens in other countries? [GI1]

Q. 8. How about reducing the threat of terrorism in America? Is this something that America can best do by itself, does it depend somewhat on what happens in other countries, or does it depend a lot on other countries? [GI2]

Q. 9. How about securing adequate supplies of energy for America? Is this something that America can best do by itself, does it depend somewhat on what happens in other countries, or does it depend a lot on other countries? [GI3]

Q. 10. How about stopping the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S.? Is this something that America can best do by itself, does it depend somewhat on what happens in other countries, or does it depend a lot on other countries? [GI5]

Q. 11. How about stopping illegal immigrants from entering the U.S.? Is this something that America can best do by itself, does it depend somewhat on what happens in other countries, or does it depend a lot on other countries? [GI6]

(For Questions 12-15, respondents were asked to reply with one of the following answers: "A great deal," "Somewhat," "Very little," or "Not at all.")

Q. 12. How much does the development of atomic weapons in India and Pakistan affect the well-being of people in the United States? [GI7]

Q. 13. How much does the destruction of the rainforest in Brazil affect the well-being of people in the United States? [GI8]

Q. 14. How much does the performance of the Asian economies affect the well-being of the people of the United States? [GI10]

Q. 15. How much does the economic and financial well-being of Mexico affect the well-being of the people of the United States? [GI13]

Q. 16. Do you think it will be better for the future if the United States takes an active part in world affairs, or if the United States stays out of world affairs? [US13]

Q. 17. Do you think the role the United State is playing in trying to keep the peace in other countries in the world is too large, too small, or about right? [US14]

(For question 18, respondents were asked to describe each of several areas of the world as either "Very significant," "Somewhat significant," or "Not very significant" to America's interests. The list was read in varying order from one respondent to the next.)

Q. 18. Are America's interests in this region very significant, somewhat significant, or not very significant? [US1a-i]

- The Middle East, which includes Israel, Iraq, and Egypt
- Canada
- Mexico and Latin America
- The Former Yugoslavia, which includes Bosnia, Kosovo, and Croatia
- East Asia, which includes Korea, Japan, and China
- Russia
- Africa (which includes countries such as Nigeria, South Africa, Somalia, and Rwanda)
- Western Europe (which includes England, France, Germany, and Italy)
- Southeast Asia, which includes Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand

Q. 19. In your opinion, should legal immigration into the United States be increased, kept at its present level, or decreased? [IM1]

Q. 20. Considering America's history, do you think legal immigration has been mostly good for America, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or mostly bad? [IM14]

Q. 21. Some people think that immigrants to America often take good jobs away from Americans; while others think that immigrants mostly take kinds of jobs that most people don't want. [IM15]

Q. 22. How much effort should Michigan's state government devote to promoting the sale of Michigan's products abroad? Would you say the state government should devote a lot of effort, some effort, a little effort or no effort at all to promote foreign trade? [T1]

Q. 23. Would you say the state government should devote a lot of effort, some effort, a little effort or no effort at all to encourage foreign manufacturers to set up production operations in Michigan? [T2]

Q. 24. Would you say the state government should devote a lot of effort, some effort, a little effort or no effort at all to encourage American manufacturers to set up production in Michigan? [T3]

Q. 25. Do you generally try to buy American-made products or foreign-made products? [T6]

Q. 26. When looking for a car to buy, do you try to buy an American-made car, a foreign-made car, or does it not matter much to you? [T7]

Q. 27. Generally speaking, should the U.S. government limit the importing of foreign goods for sale into the U.S., or should the government promote free trade? [N4]

Q. 28. Overall, do you think NAFTA has been good, mostly good, mostly bad, or bad for the U.S. economy as a whole? [N2]

Q. 29. Which country do you think has benefited the most from NAFTA? Would you say the United States, Canada, Mexico, or have they all benefited about the same amount? [N1]

Q. 30. Overall, do you think NAFTA has been good, mostly good, mostly bad, or bad for American workers? [N3]

REGIONAL CATEGORIES

NOTE: This survey was conducted using regions established by the Michigan State University Extension Service, with one exception: Detroit City is treated as a separate region.

Detroit:	City of Detroit
East Central:	Arenac, Bay, Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, Tuscola
Northern L.P.:	Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Crawford, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Iosco, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Otsego, Oscoda, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Wexford
Southeast:	Genesee, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, Wayne (excluding Detroit)
Southwest:	Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren
U.P.:	Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft
West Central:	Allegan, Barry, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa

Background Information

Michigan State University State of the State Survey [MSU SOSS]

What Is MSU SOSS?

The MSU State of the State Survey is a quarterly statewide survey of a random sample of the residents of Michigan. Although dozens of surveys are conducted in Michigan every year, no other is designed to provide a regular systematic monitoring of the public mood in major regions of the state. Through SOSS, MSU aims to fill this information gap. SOSS has five main purposes: (1) to provide timely information about citizen opinions on critical issues; (2) to provide data for scientific and policy research by MSU faculty; (3) to provide information for programs and offices at MSU; (4) to develop survey research methodology; and (5) to provide opportunities for student training and research.

Each quarterly round or “wave” of SOSS has a different main theme: (a) Winter–quality of life, governmental reform, higher education; (b) Spring–family, women, and children; (c) Summer–ethnic and racial groups, Michigan communities; (d) Fall (even numbered years)–politics, the election, and political issues; (odd-numbered years)–health and the environment.

Who Conducts SOSS?

The Survey Research Division (SRD) of the Institute administers the State of the State Survey for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), using its computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) technology.

The Director of SOSS is Dr. Brian D. Silver, Professor of Political Science. The questionnaire for each wave of SOSS is developed by a Working Group, most of whom also serve as principal investigators or analysts for that wave. The Working Group for the Summer 1999 survey was comprised of:

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